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PART I

IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT ORDERS

DEVELOPMENT SECRETARIAT

No. G. 6272—G. M. 120-33-8, dated 13th March 1934.

The following appeal issued by His Excellency the Governor of Bihar and Orissa on the 2nd February 1934, regarding Earthquake Relief is published for general information.

The several treasuries in the Mysore State have been authorised by the Comptroller to receive subscriptions to the Viceroy's Earthquake Fund.

By Order,

M. VENKATANARANAPPA,

Secretary to Government,
Development Department.

Appeal issued by His Excellency the Governor of Bihar and Orissa on the 2nd February 1934.

In early days after the earthquake of January 15, it was not possible to give any proper appreciation of the catastrophe which had fallen on Bihar and even after two weeks I can only surmise in general terms the effect of what Dr. Dunn of the Geological Survey of India, declares to have been one of the biggest and most extensive earthquakes in history. The tremors extended far beyond the province of Bihar and Orissa, but the scene of the greatest destruction was that part of Bihar which lies north of the Ganges and the towns adjoining that area on the southern bank of the river. It will convey some idea of the extent, if I say, that the area of the greatest destruction described above is as large as the whole of Scotland and supports five times the population of Scotland and does not include those parts of Bihar lying south of the Ganges where the loss of life and damage to property was on a lesser scale.

In towns of North Bihar, there is probably not one masonry house which is altogether undamaged, while thousands of houses are completely destroyed with not a wall standing. In one congested bazaar of Monghyr, the ruin was so

complete that for days it was not possible to see where the lines of the street had been amid acres of destroyed houses. Some thousands of lives have been lost and those thousands might well have been tens of thousands if the shock had been at night instead of midday. The urban population affected is not less than half a million souls, some of the towns having a population of from fifty to sixty thousand, while altogether there were twelve towns with between ten thousand and sixty thousand inhabitants which have been wrecked. The people of these towns are, for the most part, camping in open spaces close to the towns in grass and bamboo sheds or any other makeshift shelter, and must continue to so exist for months to come till money and material are made available for them to rebuild their homes. Townspeople who are in the greatest distress are mostly small shopkeepers and people of professional classes. Richer men have some reserves to fall back upon. Artisans and labourers will have work in plenty at remunerative rates. But a large majority of middle class people who have escaped with little but their lives must have substantial help to rebuild their homes and start life again.

There is no lack of medical aid. Warm clothing and medical comforts have been generally subscribed and are being distributed on a large scale. Assistance for the relief of immediate distress has come from all sides and all classes, but there remains the most urgent need for money to raise up the towns of Bihar again from their ruins. In villages the destruction of houses was not very severe. Mud built huts survived where masonry collapsed and the disaster to the agriculturist takes a different form. Soldiers who have flown over Bihar liken it to a battlefield in destruction of land. Over a large area raiyats have had their lands spoiled by fountains of water which poured out from fissures and gushers and spread over fields sand to a depth varying from a few inches to three feet or even more. The full extent of this damage to some of the most fertile territories in India will not be known for a long time, but in the part which has been visited by the Director of Agriculture and the Director of Industries their estimate is that over an area of two thousand square miles near Muzaffarpur, and in Dhurbanga one-half of the land have been affected in this way and in one-sixth the deposit of sand is deep. Air reconnaissance has shown that this damage is also found in fields of North Bhagalpur and in Purnea District and is not confined to the part already inspected. Over the whole of North Bihar, communications have been shattered. Roads and Railways are so damaged that outlying parts can only be reached on foot or by bicycle or by bullock cart, and it will be impossible to restore reliable communications even with towns like Sitamarhi for months to come.

There is a further danger which at the present time is not calculable. It is known that the earthquake has in many places changed the level of the country. Embanked roads are found to be now reduced to a level surrounding the country. Old waterways are not functioning and streams have changed their course. Where land is still in a deltaic condition, as in North Bihar, even a slight change of levels completely alters the drainage of the country, and it becomes almost certain that the next monsoon will cause severe inundation over tracts of land formerly immune from flood.

The section of the community that has suffered very severely outside towns includes sugar-cane growers and sugar mill owners. Sugar has taken the place of indigo in North Bihar and factories which flourished in indigo days have now turned completely to sugar-cane. Factories with their bungalows are destroyed. Seven large mills have fallen and a growing crop of 150 lakhs of maunds (roughly half a million tons) of cane which these would have taken has to be written off largely as loss. To enumerate other losses due to the calamity would take too much space and is not necessary for the object. I have, in view, namely to induce the people of India and abroad to appreciate the vastness of the distress caused and the damage to be repaired. Reconstruction cannot be effected in periods of weeks or months, but will extend over years and is only at all possible with the most liberal help of the charitably-minded throughout the length and breadth of India and beyond. For the reconstruction of Tokyo and Yokohama, ten years ago an equivalent of eighty crores of rupees was spent and the need of Bihar is not to be measured in lakhs. Unless the fullest possible support from all sides is given to the Viceroy's Fund for the restoration of Bihar, it must remain a stricken country for many years to come.

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Appointment of Revenue Probationers.

READ—

Government Order No. R. 3392-94—L. R. 193-33-13, dated 13th January 1934, appointing a Committee consisting of the Officers noted in the margin to select candidates for appointment as Revenue Probationers.

1. The Revenue Commissioner in Mysore (Chairman).
2. The Senior Surgeon in Mysore.
3. The Secretary to Government, Development Department.

2. Letter, dated the 23rd February 1934, from the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore, forwarding the report of the Committee.

ORDER NO. R. 4344-46—L. R. 193-33-16, DATED BANGALORE, THE 5TH MARCH 1934.

Government are pleased to direct that the following candidates be appointed Revenue Probationers :—

1. Mr. K. Gopalaraj Urs, B.A.
2. „ K. R. Marudeva Gowda, B.A.
3. Mr. D. S. Raghavendrachar, M.Sc.
4. „ Mahomed Vazeer Ahmed, B.Sc.

2. During the probationary period which will be fixed at two years, the Probationers will be given a salary of Rs. 80 per mensem. They should qualify themselves for appointment as Amildars or Deputy Amildars by passing the prescribed tests, *viz.*, the Local Service Revenue Higher, Criminal Higher and Accounts Lower Examinations and the Equitation test.

3. The confirmation of the Probationers after the period of probation, as Amildars or Deputy Amildars, is subject to the occurrence of vacancies. Ordinarily not less than 50 per cent of the vacancies in the grades of Amildars and Deputy Amildars will be made available for Revenue Probationers.

4. The Revenue Commissioner is requested to issue necessary instructions regarding the posting of the Probationers and the course of training to be undergone by them and report the action taken to Government.

5. The extra cost involved by the appointment of four Revenue Probationers will be met by reappropriation of the sanctioned grants of the Revenue Department during the current year.

S. ABDUL WAJID,
Secretary to Government,
General Department.

Remission of Isthihar Fees in hard and deserving cases.

READ—

Government Order No. R. 3065-75—L. R. 221-33-2, dated 22nd—23rd December 1933, temporarily empowering the Deputy Commissioners of Districts to waive the Isthihar fees in specially deserving cases in respect of the land revenue assessment due for the current year.

2. Letter No. R. 2757—33-34, dated 11th January 1934, from the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore, forwarding the marginally noted resolution passed at the last Amildars' Conference and requesting that the Amildars and Deputy Amildars may be permitted to remit the Isthihar fees in hard and deserving cases.

Subject No. 3.
"That the Amildars and Deputy Amildars be empowered to remit Isthihar fees if the demand is fully recovered."

ORDER NO. R. 4425-35—L. R. 221-33-7, DATED BANGALORE, THE 9TH MARCH 1934.

The question of remitting the Isthihar fees was discussed at the meeting of Deputy Commissioners of Districts and select Heads of Departments on 20th February 1934 and it was accepted that the Isthihar fees, *inter alia*, may be

invariably remitted if arrears be paid before the end of the official year whether they are of the current year or of previous years and whether they are paid before or after the sale. The Revenue Commissioner proposes that there would be no harm in permitting the Amildars and Deputy Amildars to remit the Isthihar fees in deserving cases and that any indiscriminate exercise of the power could be checked during the inspections of higher officers. In these circumstances, Government are pleased to sanction the recommendation of the Revenue Commissioner.

S. ABDUL WAJID,
Secretary to Government,
General Department.

Confining of Civil Debtors in the respective District Lock-ups and Jails.

READ—

Government Order No. G. 3299-301—Pris. 45-29-10, dated the 17th September 1930, directing that the Civil Debtors sentenced in Courts of Bangalore, Kolar and Tumkur Districts, be kept in the Central Jail, Bangalore, those sentenced in the Courts of Mysore and Hassan Districts be kept in the Mysore Jail and those sentenced in the Courts of Shimoga, Kadur and Chitaldrug Districts, be kept in the respective District Lock-ups.

ORDER No. G. 6167-78—PRIS. 16-33-11, DATED BANGALORE, THE 8TH MARCH 1934.

Representations have been made to Government in the Assembly that it would be more convenient if the Judgment Debtors in Civil Courts are ordered to be confined in the respective District Lock-ups. So far as the Courts in the Shimoga, Chitaldrug and Kadur Districts are concerned, this is being done in accordance with the Government Order read above. Government see no objection to adopt the same procedure in the other districts also and are accordingly pleased to direct that those ordered to be imprisoned by the Courts in Kolar, Tumkur and Hassan Districts be kept in the respective District Lock-ups while those sentenced in the Courts in Bangalore and Mysore Districts be continued to be kept in the Central Jail, Bangalore, or the Mysore Jail as the case may be.

2. The Inspector-General of Prisons is requested to take necessary action to give effect to this arrangement.

S. ABDUL WAJID,
Secretary to Government,
General Department.